



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

61



FILE:



Office: CHICAGO

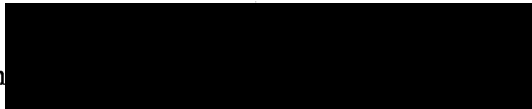
Date:

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IN RE:

Obligor:

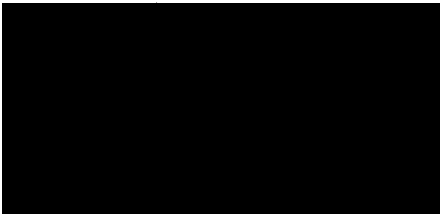
Bonded Alien



IMMIGRATION BOND:

Bond Conditioned for the Delivery of an Alien under Section 103 of the
Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1103

ON BEHALF OF OBLIGOR:



INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Mari Johnson

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

Identifying data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

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DISCUSSION: The delivery bond in this matter was declared breached by the District Director, Chicago, Illinois, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The record indicates that on January 14, 2002, the obligor posted a \$3,500 bond conditioned for the delivery of the above referenced alien. A Notice to Deliver Alien (Form I-340) dated October 17, 2002, was sent via certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice demanded the bonded alien's surrender into the custody of an officer of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (legacy INS), now Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), at 10:30 a.m. on November 12, 2002, at [REDACTED]. The obligor failed to present the alien, and the alien failed to appear as required. On November 25, 2002, the district director informed the obligor that the delivery bond had been breached.

On appeal, counsel asserts the ICE failed to attach a properly completed questionnaire to the Form I-340 and a photograph of the alien or state that none was available as required by the Amwest/Reno Settlement Agreement entered into on June 22, 1995 by the legacy INS and Far West Surety Insurance Company. Counsel indicates:

I am attaching a questionnaire brief, which is a history of the I-340 questionnaire and the requirements under *Amwest I*, *Amwest II*, and many INS [now ICE] memorandums, wires and training materials dedicated to this particular issue. They make it clear that each District must attach a properly completed and signed questionnaire to each I-340 at the time they send it to the surety. Failure to provide a questionnaire, or improperly completed questionnaires or those that do not provide answers to all sections (including a negative one) do not satisfy the *Amwest* Settlements' requirements.

Counsel, however, fails to submit the ICE memoranda, wires and training materials to support his arguments. The assertions of counsel do not constitute evidence. *Matter of Laureano*, 19 I&N Dec. 1, 3 (BIA 1983); *Matter of Obaighena*, 19 I&N Dec. 533, 534 (BIA 1988); *Matter of Ramirez-Sanchez*, 17 I&N Dec. 503, 506 (BIA 1980). Further, training materials written by the INS office of General Counsel, now Office of the Principal Legal Adviser (OPLA), are not binding on ICE.

The Settlement Agreement, Exhibit F, provides that "a questionnaire prepared by the surety with approval of the INS [now ICE] will be completed by the [ICE] whenever a demand to produce a bonded alien is to be delivered to the surety. The completed questionnaire will be certified correct by an officer of the [ICE] delivered to the surety with the demand."

ICE is in substantial compliance with the Settlement Agreement when the questionnaire provides the obligor with sufficient identifying information to assist in expeditiously locating the alien, and does not mislead the obligor. Each case must be considered on its own merits. Failure to include a photograph, which is not absolutely required under the terms of the Agreement, does not have the same impact as an improper alien number or wrong name. The AAO must look at the totality of the circumstances to determine whether the obligor has been prejudiced by ICE's failure to fill in all of the blanks, or to attach a photograph if one is available. A strict reading of the word "complete" as urged by counsel sets standards that are contained in neither of the Agreements styled *Amwest I* and *Amwest II*. More importantly, a lack of a photograph does not invalidate the bond breach.

The record reflects that a completed and signed questionnaire with the alien's photograph attached was forwarded to the obligor in compliance with the Settlement Agreement.

On appeal, counsel asserts that the bonded alien surrendered to ICE on November 25, 2002, and therefore the bond should be canceled. The alien's surrender into ICE's custody does not change the fact that the breach occurred when the obligor failed to deliver the alien on November 12, 2002. While the obligor may be entitled to mitigation of the bond penal amount, mitigating procedures are not at issue in this proceeding. Consideration here is limited solely to the issue of whether the bond has been breached.

Delivery bonds are violated if the obligor fails to cause the bonded alien to be produced or to produce himself/herself to an immigration officer or immigration judge upon each and every written request until removal proceedings are finally terminated, or until the alien is actually accepted by ICE for detention or removal. *Matter of Smith*, 16 I&N Dec. 146 (Reg. Comm. 1977).

The regulations provide that an obligor shall be released from liability where there has been "substantial performance" of all conditions imposed by the terms of the bond. 8 C.F.R. § 103.6(c)(3). A bond is breached when there has been a substantial violation of the stipulated conditions of the bond. 8 C.F.R. § 103.6(e).

8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(a)(2) provides that personal service may be effected by any of the following:

- (i) Delivery of a copy personally;
- (ii) Delivery of a copy at a person's dwelling house or usual place of abode by leaving it with some person of suitable age and discretion;
- (iii) Delivery of a copy at the office of an attorney or other person including a corporation, by leaving it with a person in charge;
- (iv) Mailing a copy by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, addressed to a person at his last known address.

The evidence of record indicates that the Notice to Deliver Alien dated October 17, 2002 was sent to the obligor via certified mail. This notice demanded that the obligor produce the bonded alien on November 12, 2002. Although the record does not contain a domestic return receipt, counsel acknowledges, on appeal, that the obligor received the notice. Consequently, the record clearly establishes that the notice was properly served on the obligor in compliance with 8 C.F.R. § 103.5a(a)(2)(iv).

It is clear from the language used in the bond agreement that the obligor shall cause the alien to be produced or the alien shall produce himself to an ICE officer upon each and every request of such officer until removal proceedings are either finally terminated or the alien is accepted by ICE for detention or removal.

It must be noted that delivery bonds are exacted to insure that aliens will be produced when and where required by ICE for hearings or removal. Such bonds are necessary in order for ICE to function in an orderly manner. The courts have long considered the confusion which would result if aliens could be surrendered at any time or place it suited the alien's or the surety's convenience. *Matter of L-*, 3 I&N Dec. 862 (C.O. 1950).

After a careful review of the record, it is concluded that the conditions of the bond have been substantially violated, and the collateral has been forfeited. The decision of the district director will not be disturbed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.